Independent Claim 53 is directed to an image reading apparatus including an illuminating device adapted to illuminate an original and a photoelectric converting device adapted to effect photoelectric conversion on the light from the original. The illuminating device includes a light conductive member for receiving light.

Claim 53 recites that the light conductive member includes a light entrance face provided in at least a part of a first side that forms a longitudinal lateral face of a rod-shaped translucent member. A first light reflecting and/or diffusing area is provided on a second side opposed to the light entrance face and is inclined relative to a light axis of the received light. The first light reflecting and/or diffusing area is adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the entering light within the translucent member. A light exit area is adapted to emit at least a part of the light to the outside of the translucent member. A second light reflecting and/or diffusing area is provided on the first side. The second light reflecting and/or diffusing area is adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light to the light exit area and is inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent member.

These features may be understood by referring, for example, to Figure 5A, which shows light being reflected by a first inclined area (e.g., 6) and a second inclined area (e.g., the surface from which the light is reflected after being reflected by the first inclined area). Of course, this is but one embodiment and in no way limits the scope of the claims.

While the claims of Ogura are directed to a structure in which light reflects from a first area that is inclined, none of the claims recite a second light reflecting and/or diffusing area that is inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent member, as in Claim 53.

Accordingly, Claim 53 is believed to be patentable over Ogura.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 53 discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

53. (Amended) An image reading apparatus including [comprising:] an illuminating device adapted to illuminate an original and a photoelectric converting device adapted to effect photoelectric conversion on the light from the original, [said] the illuminating device including a light conductive member for receiving light, the light conductive member comprising:

a light entrance face provided in at least a part of a first side that forms a longitudinal lateral face of a rod-shaped translucent member; [an inclined lateral face relative to said light entrance face in a part of the lateral face]

a first light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on a second side opposed to said light entrance face and inclined relative to a light axis of the received light, said first light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse [an] the entering light within the [beam into the longitudinal direction of said rod-shaped] translucent member;

a light exit [face in at least a part of the lateral face,] area adapted to emit at least a part of [said reflected and/or diffused] the light [beam] to the outside of the translucent member; and

a [light source adapted to irradiate the light entrance face] second light reflecting and/or diffusing area provided on the first side, said second light reflecting and/or diffusing area being adapted to reflect and/or diffuse the light to said light exit area and inclined with respect to a longitudinal axis of the translucent member.

55. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 53, [wherein said] further comprising a light source [comprises] that includes an LED.

56. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 53, [wherein said] further comprising a light source that includes a plurality of light-emitting elements, each light-emitting element having different light emission wavelength ranges.